

RECEIPT NUMBER

520594

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

FRANK KEVIN FISCHER,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JUDGE : O'Meara, John Corbett
DECK : S. Division Civil Deck
DATE : 02/01/2005 @ 12:50:53
CASE NUMBER : 2:05CV70366
CMP FRANK KEVIN FISCHER V UNITED
PARCEL SERVICE CO (DH)

UNITED PARCEL SERVICE CO.
a foreign corporation,

Defendant.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

MAGISTRATE JUDGE VIRGINIA M. MORGAN

DEBORAH L. GORDON, PLC
Deborah L. Gordon (P27058)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
33 Bloomfield Hills Parkway, Suite 275
Bloomfield Hills Michigan 48304
Telephone 248 258 2500

U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

05 FEB -1 PM 2:59

FILED

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff Frank Kevin Fischer by his attorneys Deborah L. Gordon, PLC complains against Defendant as follows:

Jurisdiction and Parties

1. This is an action for retaliation brought pursuant to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 USC §2000e, *et seq.* and Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, MCL §37.2101 *et seq.*, arising out of Plaintiff's employment relationship with Defendant.

2. Plaintiff's retaliation claim is based on an earlier discrimination action brought by Plaintiff in Michigan state court on October 5, 2000, removed to U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan (Case No. 02-1071), and assigned to Judge Victoria A.

Roberts.

3. This Court has jurisdiction of Plaintiff's claim under and pursuant to 42 USC §2000e-5 and 28 USC §1331 and §1343.

4. This Court has jurisdiction of Plaintiff's state law claim pursuant to the doctrine of pendent jurisdiction.

5. Defendant **United Parcel Service Co.** (hereafter Defendant **UPS**) is a foreign corporation doing business within the Eastern District of Michigan.

6. The events giving rise to this cause of action occurred within the Eastern District of Michigan and this matter is otherwise within the jurisdiction of this Court.

7. Plaintiff timely files this action within 90 days of receiving "Notice of Right-to-Sue" from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which Notice was mailed to him on or about January 13, 2005.

Background Facts

8. Plaintiff **Fischer** became employed with Defendant **UPS** on or about September 18, 1985.

9. Plaintiff is an African-American male.

10. During his employment relationship with Defendant, Plaintiff performed his job duties in a manner that was satisfactory or better.

11. Starting out with Defendant as a part-time unloader, Plaintiff rose through the ranks until 1997, when he was promoted to the position of "National Account Manager", or "NAM," a position he held until his termination from Defendant in February, 2003.

12. Plaintiff was the only African American National Account Manager, "NAM", in his region.

13. In his position as NAM, Plaintiff was assigned to the Ford Motor Company small packages account.

14. In 1999, Plaintiff was instrumental in forging a lucrative deal between Ford and Defendant UPS. Plaintiff's relationship with a high-level manager at Ford, who was also African-American, was integral to Defendant's successful negotiation of this contract, which was signed in 2000.

15. In December, 1999, Plaintiff was removed from the Ford small packages account and assigned to several smaller, less desirable accounts.

16. At the time, Plaintiff's manager, a Caucasian male, had made the statement to Plaintiff that he (Plaintiff) and his contact at Ford were a "couple of brothers trying to take care of each other, and I'm not going to let that happen."

17. Based on the aforementioned statement and other evidence of discriminatory animus, Plaintiff complained to Defendant **UPS** that his removal from the Ford account was the product of race discrimination.

18. Unable to resolve his discrimination complaint internally, Plaintiff filed a lawsuit in state court on October 5, 2000, alleging race discrimination, racial harassment, and retaliation under Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act.

19. In February, 2001 Plaintiff was placed on a medical leave of absence from work.

20. In January, 2002, Plaintiff provided Defendant with a doctor's release stating that he was able to return to work from his medical leave.

21. Defendant **UPS** refused to accept the aforementioned doctor's release.

22. After complaining about Defendant's refusal to accept his doctor's release,

Plaintiff was returned to work on February 4, 2002.

23. Upon his return to work in February 2002, Plaintiff was assigned to the same supervisor he had been assigned to from January 2000 until his medical leave began in February 2001.

24. The aforementioned supervisor had testified on behalf of Defendant UPS at the trial of Plaintiff's discrimination case which took place in December, 2001, two months prior to Plaintiff's return to work.

25. Following his return to work, Plaintiff was held to a different standard and subjected to less favorable treatment than his peers.

26. These differences in treatment included the fact that he was restricted to the office, was not assigned any accounts, was prohibited from contacting customers, was subjected to greater scrutiny by his supervisor, and was expected to report his whereabouts to his supervisor at all times and to obtain her approval for breaks - requirements that were unheard of with respect to managers at Plaintiff's level.

27. During 2002, Plaintiff's supervisor continued to treat Plaintiff less favorably than his peers, avoided personal contact with him, and communicated with him by e-mail instead.

28. Despite the less favorable treatment Plaintiff received from management, he was successful in bringing in a significant amount of new business during 2002.

29. On February 5, 2003, exactly one year and one day after Plaintiff's return from medical leave, he was called to a meeting with his supervisor and a human resources manager and was questioned in an accusatory and hostile manner about missing a training meeting the previous day and about taking a test. In an attempt to anger Plaintiff,

the two continued to harass him after he had already agreed to attend a make-up training class and take the test.

30. On February 4, 2003, the day he had missed the training meeting, Plaintiff had called to inform his supervisor of his absence and she was aware that he had been in a car accident.

31. On February 6, 2003, Plaintiff advised his supervisor, via e-mail, that he considered her actions on February 5 to be continued racial discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

32. Plaintiff attended the make-up training meeting on February 6, 2003, along with a number of other employees who had missed the previous session. Plaintiff completed and passed the aforementioned test on February 7, 2003.

33. On February 11, 2003, Plaintiff's supervisor and the aforementioned human resources manager called him to another meeting and verbally attacked him for not personally handing the aforementioned test to his supervisor.

34. After explaining several times that he had left the test on his supervisor's desk because she was not in her office at the time, Plaintiff stated that he did not want to argue. Plaintiff was then suspended immediately, "pending an investigation", and sent home.

35. Later in the day on February 11, 2003, Plaintiff was called back into the office and terminated for "conduct unbecoming a manager."

36. In addition to the aforementioned events, other efforts were made by agents of Defendant, during the days leading to Plaintiff's termination, to trump up "reasons" to justify terminating him.

37. Plaintiff's termination was in fact motivated by his internal complaints and his

lawsuit alleging race discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Count I - Retaliation

38. Plaintiff incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 37 above.

39. Plaintiff's treatment and termination as described above was retaliatory and occurred, in part, because Plaintiff complained about and objected to Defendant's discriminatory treatment of him.

40. Defendant's retaliatory treatment and termination of Plaintiff was in violation of the anti-retaliation provisions of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 USC §2000(e) *et seq.*

41. Defendant's retaliatory treatment and termination of Plaintiff was in violation of the anti-retaliation provisions of Michigan's Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, MCL §37.2101 *et seq.*

42. The actions of Defendant, by its agents, employees and representatives, were intentional, in deliberate disregard for the rights and sensibilities of Plaintiff.

43. As a direct and proximate result of those actions, the terms, conditions and privileges of Plaintiff's employment were adversely affected.

44. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant's wrongful and discriminatory treatment of Plaintiff, Plaintiff has suffered injuries and damages, including, but not limited to, loss of past, present and future earnings and earning capacity; loss of the value of fringe and pension benefits; bonuses; stock and stock option losses; mental and emotional distress, including anxiety and mental anguish; humiliation and embarrassment; loss of the ordinary pleasures of everyday life, including the right to seek and pursue gainful occupation of choice; and loss of professional reputation.

RELIEF REQUESTED

For all of the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff **Frank Kevin Fischer** demands judgment against Defendant as follows:

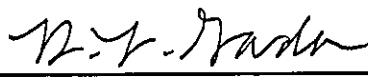
A. Legal Relief:

1. Compensatory damages in whatever amount he is found to be entitled;
2. Exemplary damages in whatever amount he is found to be entitled;
3. Punitive damages in whatever amount he is found to be entitled;
4. A judgment for lost wages and benefits, past and future, in whatever amount he is found to be entitled.
5. An award of interest, costs and reasonable attorney fees.

B. Equitable Relief:

1. An injunction out of this Court prohibiting any further acts of discrimination or retaliation.
2. An award of interest, costs and reasonable attorney fees.
3. Whatever other equitable relief appears appropriate at the time of final judgment.

DEBORAH L. GORDON, PLC


By 
Deborah L. Gordon (P27058)
Attorneys for Plaintiff
33 Bloomfield Hills Parkway, Suite 275
Bloomfield Hills Michigan 48304
Telephone 248 258 2500

Dated: January 31, 2005

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff **Frank Kevin Fischer** through his attorneys **Deborah L. Gordon, PLC** demands a trial by jury of all issues in this cause.

DEBORAH L. GORDON, PLC

By: 

Deborah L. Gordon (P27058)
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Dated: January 31, 2005

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet.

05-70366

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS
FRANK KEVIN FISCHER

DEFENDANTS
UNITED PARCEL SERVICE CO.,
a foreign corporation

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff: Wayne County Michigan

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant: Wayne County Michigan

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED

(C) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)
Deborah L. Gordon (P27058)
33 Bloomfield Hills Parkway, Suite 275
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304
Phone (248) 258 2500

ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)

JOHN CORBETT O'MEARA
MAGISTRATE JUDGE VIRGINIA M. MORGAN

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
☒ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box For Plaintiff And One Box for Defendant)

- | | PLA | DEF | | PLA | DEF |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veterans's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury—Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury—Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 : 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 635 Other <input type="checkbox"/> 640 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce/ICC <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	LABOR	SOCIAL SECURITY
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395M) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 OWB/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))
				FEDERAL TAX SUITS
				<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS — Third Party 26 USC 7609

V. ORIGIN (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding
☐ 2 Removed from State Court
☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
☐ 5 Transferred from another district (specify)
☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation
☐ 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of cause.)

Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity)

Retaliation under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 USC §2000e, et seq

COMPLAINT: UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

JURY DEMAND: ☒ YES ☐ NO

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) (See instructions):

IF ANY

JUDGE Victoria A. Roberts

DOCKET NUMBER 02-1071

DATE
 January 31, 2005

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

N. V. Gordon (P27058)

PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 83.11

1. Is this a case that has been previously dismissed?

☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, give the following information:

Court: _____

Case No.: _____

Judge: _____

2. Other than stated above, are there any pending or previously discontinued or dismissed companion cases in this or any other court, including state court? (Companion cases are matters in which it appears substantially similar evidence will be offered or the same or related parties are present and the cases arise out of the same transaction or occurrence.)

☒ Yes
☐ No

If yes, give the following information:

Court U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan

Case No.: 02-1071

Judge: Victoria A. Roberts

Notes: _____